

TEXAS  STATE
UNIVERSITY

The rising STAR of Texas

Memorandum

December 17, 2020

To: Dr. Mary Ellen Cavitt, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs
Via: Dr. Vincent E. Morton, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students
From: Kathryn A. Weiser, Assistant Dean of Students *KaW*
Subject: Student Government Senate Resolution Legislation 2020-2021

Nineteen pieces of passed 2020-2021 Senate Resolutions from Student Government are attached and listed below.

S.R.2020-2021.01 Resolution to Accept and Implement TXST Covid-19 List of Demands

This legislation intends to support several demands of protestors from the Texas State University administration, which include providing additional paid sick leave; hazard pay; full refunds for tuition and fees; compensation of university and private contractors' hourly and salary employees who were laid off due to COVID-19; suspension of Wells Fargo student loan payments by Wells Fargo; Chartwells payment of sick leave to Chartwells, and rent and evictions freeze by A.C.T. housing affiliates.

S.R.2020-2021.02 Resolution Calling for the University to Adopt Cite and Release Policies

This legislation intends to recommend the University to adopt cite and release policing policies like those adopted by the City of San Marcos in April 2020.

S.R.2020-2021.03 Resolution Calling for Reduced Student Fees for Fall 2020

This legislation intends to recommend the University implement a reduced student fee schedule to not include or lessen fee costs for things students would not be able to use such as for athletics, LBJSC (e.g. SACA events), recreation (e.g. Student Recreation Center), and transportation (e.g. buses).

S.R.2020-2021.04 Resolution Calling for Budget Transparency

DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE

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This letter is an electronic communication from Texas State University.

This legislation intends to recommend the President of Texas State University, or her designee must introduce the proposed budget in a manner that provides at least 14 days' time for the Assembly (i.e., Student Senate and Graduate House) to review the budget before the President's presentation to the Assembly.

S.R.2020-2021.05 Resolution in Support of the Reduced Student Fees in Fall 2020 and Calls for Extension of Reductions in Spring 2020

This legislation intends to support the change in fee structure announced by the university for the Fall 2020 outbreak and should the university convert to a fully online academic experience in Fall 2020 or Spring 2021, and reduce access to university resources, Texas State University must develop a reduced student fee schedule for the Athletics Fee, Student Center Fee, Student Recreation Center, Transportation Services Fee, and Student Service Fee based on the level of programs and/or services each funding source will be able to provide to the student body (e.g., student's ability to attend athletic events, reductions to SACA's programming schedule, inability to reserve space in LBJ, inability to use workout facilities, reduced shuttle services, etc.).

S.R.2020-2021.06 Resolution in Support of Adopting 8 Can't Wait Policing Policies

This legislation intends to call for the University Police Department to adopt and enforce the policies articulated by the 8cantwait campaign and have the policies available on their website. (8cantwait.org)

S.R.2020-2021.09 Resolution Calling for Non-Policing Alternatives for Campus Safety

This legislation intends to call for alternative methods for ensuring campus safety and ending the over-policing of Texas State University.

S.R.2020-2021.10 Resolution in Support for The Texas State Employees Union's Petition

This legislation intends to call for Texas State to accept the demands of the TSEU (CWA Local 6186) in full to ensure that Texas State adequately

S.R.2020-2021.11 Resolution Calling for The Texas State University President to Formally Request That the San Marcos District Attorney Drop All Charges Placed Against the Student Protestors Arrested in May 2018 and 2019

This legislation calls for University President Trauth, and all other relevant University administrators, to make a public and formal request for the San Marcos District Attorney to drop all outstanding charges placed against the students and release a public apology for the actions of the University in those instances, in an effort allow healing to take place on campus.

S.R.2020-2021.12 Resolution Calling for the Establishment of a Cultural Activities Fee

This legislation intends to recommend that the University implement a \$5.00 Cultural Activity fee for students enrolled for courses at the San Marcos campus and that students may attend productions and events relating to the fine arts free of charge, and the fee will be overseen by a committee of students and faculty.

S.R.2020-2021.13 Resolution Calling for the Theatre Department to Adjust its Curriculum to Better Accommodate Students

This legislation intends to call for the Theatre Department to adjust courses TH4390 through TH4393 to be less strenuous for students.

S.R.2020-2021.14 Resolution Calling for the Expansion of Mental Health Resources

This legislation calls on the university to adopt outreach for mental health assessments, the adoption of Biofeedback rooms, and more effort towards outreaching for funding for mental health from different sources across the country.

S.R.2020-2021.15 Resolution calling for Stopping Coronavirus Spread by Increasing Testing Capability

This legislation intends for Student Government to urges campus administration and the Student Health Center to speed up testing in an effort to deliver results within at most 2 days due to its time-sensitive importance.

S.R.2020-2021.16 Resolution Calling for the Installation of Artistic Murals

This legislation intends to recommend the university to commission more artistic works on campus and to commission students to do the artwork.

S.R.2020-2021.17 Resolution Calling for Updated Calorie and Diet Specific Information in Dining Halls

This legislation intends to recommend Chartwells provides more updated dietary information to be posted in dining halls.

S.R.2020-2021.18 Resolution Calling for the Creation of Cultural Diversity Flagged Course in Required Curriculum

This legislation intends to recommend the University to flag specific types of cultural diversity courses in the student enrollment system and require two flagged courses for graduation.

S.R.2020-2021.19 Resolution to Leverage Bobcat Trace to Further Mental Health Outreach from the University

This legislation intends to recommend the University reformat Bobcat Trace to be used as a way for students to assess their mental health state, and potentially get on track to receiving aid streamlining the scheduling process.

S.R.2020-2021.20 Resolution Calling on Free Masks in Major Student Service Buildings

This legislation intends to recommend free masks at entrances of student services buildings such as Alkek, LBJSC, and the Student Recreation Center.

S.R.2020-2021.21 Resolution to Encourage Fee Transparency When Registering for Classes, Through an Online Code Pledge

This legislation intends to have a pledge that will be sent out to professors so they can choose to sign it or not, in an effort to be more transparent about course fees.



Memorandum

To: Dr. Vincent Morton Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

Kathryn A. Weiser, Assistant Dean of Students

Date: December 17, 2020

From: Catching Valentinis-Dee, Student Body President

Subject: Student Government Passed Legislation: Senate Resolutions

With the intention of honoring the senate's role as a representative body, no resolution passed by the senate during the year 2020 was vetoed. However, I hold my strongest reservations about three particular pieces. I request that my reservations be attached to these selected pieces.

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.09 Resolution Calling for Non-Policing Alternatives for Campus Safety

Number of Vote: <number>

This legislation is misguided, poorly constructed, and dishonestly represents TXST UPD and campus policing. Furthermore, the enclosed recommendation to defund UPD would result in an unacceptably negative impact upon their ability to ensure student safety and campus security.

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.11 Resolution Calling for The Texas State University President to Formally Request That the San Marcos District Attorney Drop All Charges Placed Against the Student Protestors Arrested in May 2018 and 2019

Number of Vote: <number>

Acceptance of this legislation by the TXST Administration would be a direct incentivization of unlawful action and disobedience by students. Secondly, the content of this legislation was misrepresented before the senate by its author and sponsors during consideration.

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.12 Resolution Calling for the Establishment of a Cultural Activities Fee

Number of Vote: <number>

This legislation recommends the introduction of a universal fee for a service already available to students at "a highly reduced cost", in the words of the piece. At this time, the greater student population is wholly uninterested in increasing the cost of attendance for this purpose.

Acknowledged are the following pieces considered and passed by the Student Senate.

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.01 Resolution to Accept and Implement TXST Covid-19 List of Demands

Number of Vote: 25 voted in favor, 0 voted in opposition, 2 voted to abstain

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.02 Resolution Calling for the University to Adopt Cite and Release Policies

Number of Vote: 27 voted in favor, 0 voted in opposition, 0 voted to abstain

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.03 Resolution Calling for Reduced Student Fees for Fall 2020

Number of Vote: 27 voted in favor, 0 voted in opposition, 0 voted to abstain

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.04 Resolution Calling for Budget Transparency

Number of Vote: 30 voted in favor, 0 voted in opposition, 1 voted to abstain

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.05 Resolution in Support of the Reduced Student Fees in Fall 2020 and Calls for Extension of Reductions in Spring 2020

Number of Vote: 31 voted in favor, 0 voted in opposition, 0 voted to abstain

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.06 Resolution in Support of Adopting 8 Can't Wait Policing Policies

Number of Vote: 17 voted in favor, 14 voted in opposition, 0 voted to abstain

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.10 Resolution in Support for The Texas State Employees Union's Petition

Number of Vote: 20 voted in favor, 9 voted in opposition, 0 voted to abstain

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.13 Resolution Calling for the Theatre Department to Adjust its Curriculum to Better Accommodate Students

Number of Vote: 20 voted in favor, 10 voted in opposition, 0 voted to abstain

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.14 Resolution Calling for the Expansion of Mental Health Resources

Number of Vote: 24 voted in favor, 0 voted in opposition, 0 voted to abstain

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.15 Resolution calling for Stopping Coronavirus Spread by Increasing Testing Capability

Number of Vote: 24 voted in favor, 0 voted in opposition, 0 voted to abstain

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.16 Resolution Calling for the Installation of Artistic Murals

Number of Vote: 18 voted in favor, 8 voted in opposition, 0 voted to abstain

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.17 Resolution Calling for Updated Calorie and Diet Specific Information in Dining Halls

Number of Vote: 29 voted in favor, 0 voted in opposition, 0 voted to abstain

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.18 Resolution Calling for the Creation of Cultural Diversity Flagged Course in Required Curriculum

Number of Vote: 16 voted in favor, 10 voted in opposition, 0 voted to abstain

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.19 Resolution to Leverage Bobcat Trace to Further Mental Health Outreach from the University

Number of Vote: 26 voted in favor, 0 voted in opposition, 0 voted to abstain

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.20 Resolution Calling on Free Masks in Major Student Service Buildings

Number of Vote: 28 voted in favor, 0 voted in opposition, 1 voted to abstain

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.21 Resolution to Encourage Fee Transparency When Registering for Classes, Through an Online Code Pledge

Number of Vote: 30 voted in favor, 0 voted in opposition, 0 voted to abstain

Author

Senator Macias, Regina

Sponsors

Senator Haynes, KeAirra

Senator Halter, Colton

First Reading: April 20, 2020

S.R. 2020-2021.01

A Resolution

To be known as "A Resolution in Support of the TXST COVID-19 List of Demands," which endorses the demands by Bobcats for Bernie, YDSA @ TXST, College Democrats at Texas State, Interruptions, USAC, Bobcat Blend Student Organization, NAACP Unit 6875-B, MOVE at Texas State, Texas State Employees Union - CWA Local 6186, Supporting Women in Political Science and others for the adoption of specific COVID-19 related polices at the university.

WHEREAS: COVID-19 has forced the University to proceed with remote instruction for the rest of the semester in accordance with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS: Texas State University officially made the transition to remote instruction for the remainder of the semester tuition and fees that students paid at the beginning of the semester will be going to waste or won't be used to their full potential; and

WHEREAS: All Campus workers are not currently being paid sick leave despite being forced out of work, including those that have been hired by outside companies such as Chartwells; and

WHEREAS: All employees that have been laid off regardless of whether or not they are hourly employees should remain on the payroll given that outside work is nearly impossible to find during

25 a global pandemic, this includes those that have been hired by
26 outside companies such as Chartwells; and

27 **WHEREAS:** Texas State University has the responsibility of
28 ensuring the housing rights of students are being met by private
29 housing complexes affiliated with the University under the ACT
30 Ally program; and

31 **WHEREAS:** Wells Fargo Bank is partnered with the University thus
32 student loan payments should be suspended for the time being in
33 order for the healthy partnership to remain; and

34 **BE IT RESOLVED:** The Student Government Senate endorses the TXST
35 COVID-19 list of demands; and

36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** The Student Government formally
37 requests that the University Administration adopt and implement
38 the plan outlined in the demands of the Protestors immediately
39 from the passing of this resolution; and

40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That this letter will be forwarded to
41 the Student Body President for further action.

Appendix A

“Bobcats for Bernie, YDSA @ TXST, College Democrats at Texas State, Interruptions, USAC, Bobcat Blend Student Organization, NAACP Unit 6875-B, MOVE at Texas State, Texas State Employees Union - CWA Local 6186, Supporting Women in Political Science and the undersigned students, workers, faculty, and alumni, call on the Texas State University Administration to protect their students and workers and respond appropriately to the coronavirus pandemic.

We demand that the Texas State University Administration:

- Extend paid sick leave for all campus workers until in-person classes resume
- Provide all essential staff hazard pay for the duration of the COVID-19 crisis
- Force Chartwells and other private organizations that employ students on campus to provide paid sick leave to workers
- Ensure that all employees will continue to be compensated, both salaried and hourly, for the remainder of the crisis, including those who were laid off because of COVID-19 and those who are privately contracted
- Provide students with a full refund for tuition and fees
- Insist that all ACT housing partners freeze rent, freeze evictions, and offer lease breakages to all residents
- Require that Wells Fargo suspend student loan payments until September 31st for alumni and students to maintain their partnership with Texas State

Students are currently being pushed from their campus housing, forced to move to online classes without technical support, receiving minimal communication and transparency about institutional decisions around their response to coronavirus, and at risk of losing cumulatively millions of dollars to wasted tuition costs.

Students did not sign up for virtual classes. There are many classes such as acting, studio art, science and dance classes that simply do not translate well to a virtual platform. Additionally, many students are affected by outside factors that hinder their ability to succeed in a digital learning environment. While it is not Texas State's, nor the students' fault we are in this situation, we do believe it is Texas State's responsibility to take care of their student population, especially in an unprecedented crisis.

There are many students who are contracted through private organizations, and all of whom have lost their jobs through no fault of their own. They are now in a position of having no income, and a high unlikelihood of finding a new job during this economic crisis where we are projected to reach nearly 30% unemployment. Not only do students and faculty deserve to receive income, but many also rely on their pay for essentials such as utilities and groceries, to name a couple. They need to be supported by their employers in order to live.

Moreover, there are many fees for which students have paid and will receive no benefit from or access for the remainder of the semester. Considering that these fees are a decent amount of what we pay for every semester, we believe it is only right that we should be reimbursed for what we have paid and now have no access to take part in or have utility of.

As an institution that profits from the tuition paid by their students and from the labor of their workers, we demand that Texas State University use their enormous profits to protect their students, faculty, and employees.”